

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for treating a condition of a patient's airway wherein the said condition is attributed at least in part to a spacing of a base of a tongue tissue from opposing pharyngeal wall surfaces in the said airway; the said method comprising:

placing a tissue contractor within the tongue said tissue within an upper airway of the said patient, the said contractor including a static end and a tissue-engaging end connected to a member;

the tissue-engaging end formed of a tissue growth inducing material to induce tissue ingrowth into the tissue-engaging end following implantation in the tongue;

the placing including placing the tissue-engaging end within an interior of said tongue near the base of the tongue and with the member extending from the tissue engaging end to an end near a jaw bone of the patient;

anchoring the end of the member to the jaw bone for the member to resist movement of the tissue-engaging member away from the jaw bone securing said static end at a bony structure adjacent said tissue and securing said tissue engaging end to said tissue and spaced from said bony structure; and

wherein the anchoring is performed after at least partially securing the tissue-engaging end to the tissue contracting a spacing between said tissue engaging end and bony structure.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 2 wherein said anchoring shortening includes pulling on the said contractor near the jaw bone said bony structure and securing the said contractor to the jaw bone said bony structure at said static end with the tongue said tissue under tension.

4. - 7. (Cancelled).

8. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein the said condition is snoring.

9. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein the said condition is sleep apnea.

10. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for treating a condition of a patient's airway wherein the said condition is attributed at least in part by a spacing of a base of a tongue tissue from opposing pharyngeal wall surfaces in said airway; the said apparatus comprising:
a tissue contractor dimensioned so as to be placed within the tongue said tissue within an upper airway of said patient, the said contractor including a static end and a tissue-engaging end connected to a member;
said static end adapted to be secured an anchor for securing the member in place near a jaw bone bony structure adjacent said tissue;
the said tissue-engaging end formed of a tissue growth inducing material to induce tissue in-growth into the tissue-engaging end following implantation in the tongue adapted to secure to said tissue;
the member adapted to be accessed and secured by the anchor to the jaw bone following initial implantation of the tissue contractor said contractor adapted to contract a spacing between said tissue engaging end and said bony structure.

11. - 15. (Cancelled).

16. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 10 wherein the said condition is snoring.

17. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 10 wherein the said condition is sleep apnea.

18. - 20. (Cancelled).

21. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein member said static end is secured directly to the jaw bone said bony structure.

22. (Currently Amended) A method An apparatus according to claim 10 wherein the member said static end is adapted to be secured directly to the said bony structure.

23. (New) A method according to claim 1 wherein the connecting member is a suture material.

24. (New) A method according to claim 1 the anchoring is performed after an initial implantation of the tissue contractor by accessing drawing on the member to draw the tissue-engaging end toward the jaw bone and then anchoring the end of the member to the jaw bone.

25. (New) A method according to claim 1 wherein the member is a resilient material.

26. (New) An apparatus according to claim 10 wherein the member is a suture material.

27. (New) An apparatus according to claim 10 wherein the member is a resilient material.